<u>What Is Claimed Is</u>:

1.   A method of performing distributed data mining and analysis comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of analyzer modules in a network for collecting information relating to a number of different network devices, each of said analyzer modules being operated in a parent-child relationship with another of said analyzer modules;

sending information relating to said network devices from the corresponding child analyzer modules with which said network devices operate to at least one parent analyzer module;

aggregating said information received from at least one of said child analyzer modules at a first one of said parent analyzer modules; and

transmitting said aggregated information to a second one of said parent analyzer modules with which said first parent analyzer module is a child module.